

THE STRUGGLE FOR EXISTENCE

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ax can really be used only as a hammer, for, by means of it, the wood is beaten into a fibrous condition and is not properly cut.¹ Nevertheless, the Shingu Indians cleared forests, built houses and canoes, and made furniture with the stone ax alone.² The Indians of Guiana, with stone and bone implements, cut down big trees, cut out the core of them, and made weapons and tools of great perfection and beauty.³ The same may be said of very many other peoples. Some Australians value stone axes so much that they except them from the custom to bury all a man's property with him. Axes are inherited by the next of kin.⁴

132. Acculturation versus parallelism* The facts in regard to making and using stone implements bring up the question whether such arts have a single origin and are spread by contagion (acculturation), or are invented independently by many people who have the same tasks to perform, and the same or similar materials at hand (parallelism). Lippert⁵ says that "the different modes of fashioning flint arrowheads show us that we must not think of the earliest art as all tied to a single tradition, and carried away from this. On the contrary, human ingenuity has set about accomplishing the acts which are necessary for the struggle for existence in different places, with the elements there at hand." We have seen above that the materials may, from their character, so limit and condition the operations of manufacture as to set lines for the development of the art. If the processes of the men are also limited and conditioned by the nature of human nerves and muscles so that they must run on certain lines, it would follow that the human mind also, in face

of a certain problem, will fall into conditioned
modes of activity,
and we should approach the doctrine that men
must think the
same thoughts by way of mental reaction on the
same experiences
and observations.

The facts, however, show that an art, beginning
in the rudest
way, is produced along lines of concurrent
effort, and is the

¹ *Globus*, LXXVI, 79.

² Von den Steinen, *BerL Mus.*, 1888. 203.

⁸ Schomburgk, *Britisch Guiana* ^ I, 424.

⁴ Howitt, *S. E. Australians*, 455.

⁶ *jKulturgesch.*) I, 289.